

Wide Area Information Servers

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- Goals
- Project Structure
- System Features
- Status

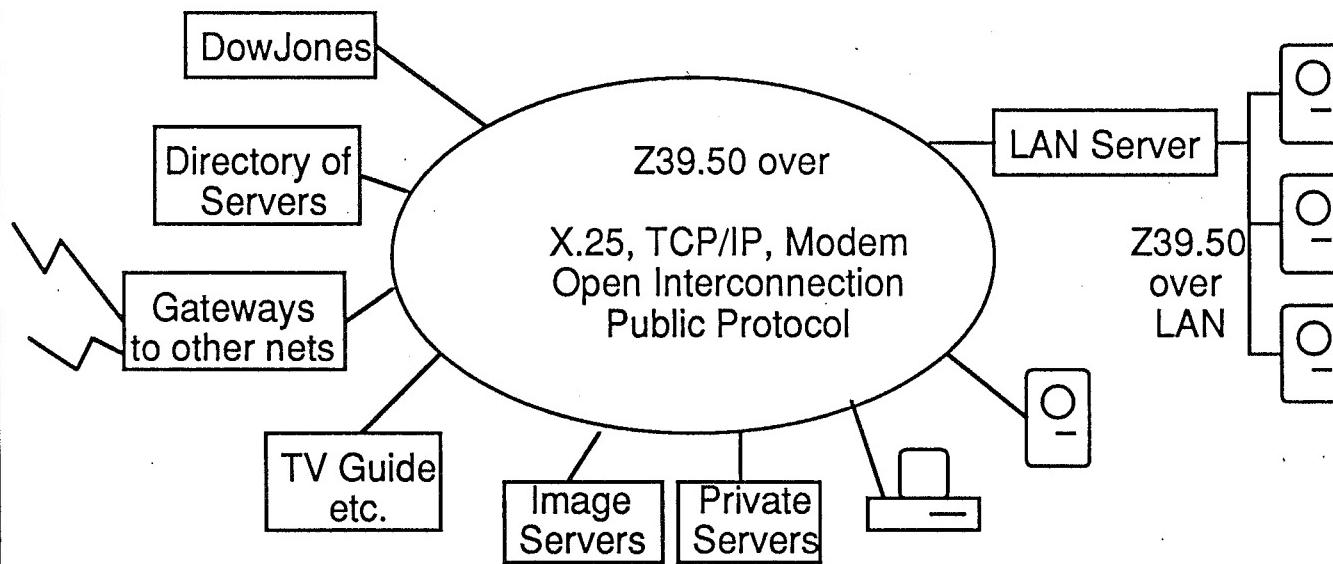
Dow Jones
Thinking Machines
Apple
Peat Marwick

- Conclusion

Goals

- Catalyze a market of Wide Area Information Servers
- Establish open protocol for Information Servers
- Produce skeleton Producer ---> Consumer system
- If the system is useful:
 - Move into production at TMC and Dow
 - Transfer technology to Apple Products Division
 - Evangelize third parties to write Mac software
- Find out what is missing from our system

Wide Area Information Server Architecture



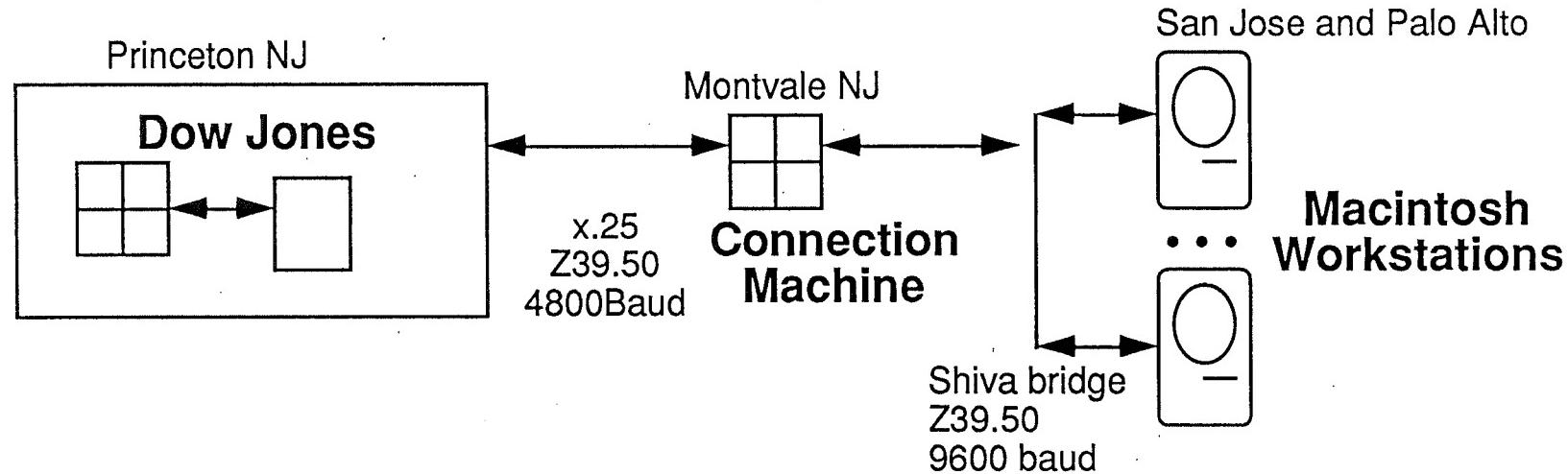
Users Problems:
Selecting Servers
Answering Questions
Organizing Responses

Architecture Issues:
Scalability
Security
Business model for servers
Reliable Access

Proposed Techniques

- No Algebraic Query Language:
English Language and Relevance feedback
- Integrate Personal, corporate, and published
information access
- Interactive questions become lasting agents
to continue the search (personal newspaper)
- Single Computer-to-Computer Protocol

Demonstration System Structure

**Published Data Server:**

Wall Street Journal,
Barrons,
450 Magazines.

Corporate Data Server:

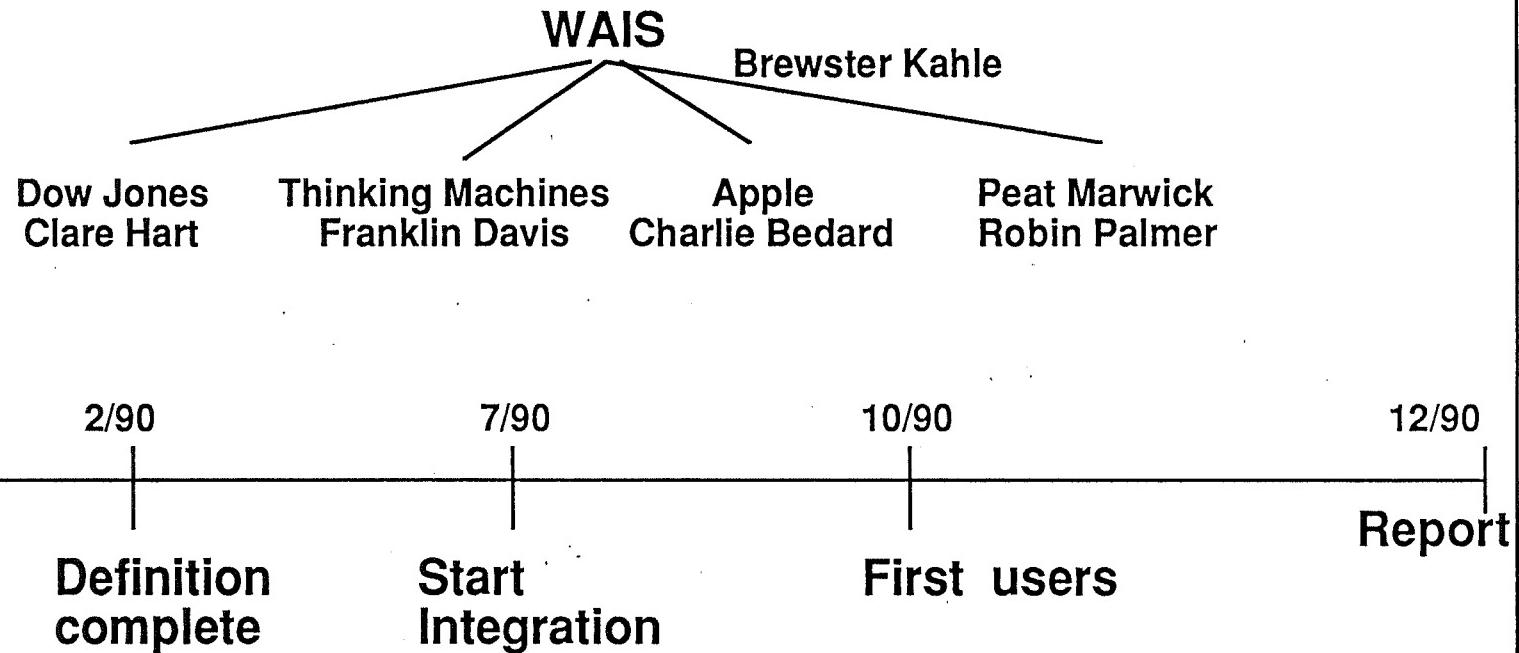
Memo's, proposals,
Laws, regulations,
Resumes, training material.

Personal Workstation:

Personal files,
user interface.

WAIS

Project Structure



Dow Jones Components

- Application protocol for DowQuest: working.
- Provide DowVision Broadcast to Participants: complete.
- Provide DowVision Interactive: yet to come.

Thinking Machines Components

- Information Retrieval on the Connection Machine:
working (DowQuest functionality)
- Application Protocol Implementation for CM:
complete.
- DowVision Support:
working, needs integration
- WAIStation (user interface): working.

Apple Components

- User Interface: In implementation.
- Application Protocol Implementation: working
- Communications Software: working
- User Studies: waiting for users

Peat Marwick Components

- Provide relevant data: complete.
- Select and prepare installation site: in process.
- Help with user scenarios: working.
- Feedback design ideas and comments: working.

User Feedback

- We have built most of our initial system: users are starting to provide feedback.
- 9600 baud is not good enough for interactive text
- Separate sources (even in one server) is useful to guide user questions.

What Next?

- Continue building and refining through the year.
- Outline each companies ideas (and commitments) on how to proceed next year
- How can we better serve the users?